

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

JOSHUA COPENHAVER,

Plaintiff,

v.

JEFFREY JAMES, et. al.,

Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-CV-11111

DISTRICT JUDGE PAUL V. GADOLA

MAGISTRATE JUDGE DONALD A. SCHEER

ORDER DENYING PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

This cause comes before the Court on Petitioner's Motion For Appointment of Counsel dated July 2, 2007 (Docket #45). The decision to appoint counsel for an indigent litigant is within the discretion of the district court. LaBeau v. Dakota, 815 F.Supp. 1074, 1076 (W.D. Mich. 1993) (citing Henry v. City of Detroit Manpower Dept., 763 F.2d 757, 760 (6th Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 474 U.S. 1036 (1985)). Appointment of counsel is not a constitutional right. Childs v. Pellegrin, 822 F.2d 1382, 1384 (6th Cir. 1987). This discretion rests upon a consideration of all the circumstances of the case, including the plaintiff's finances, his efforts to obtain counsel, and most importantly, whether the plaintiff's case appears to be meritorious. Henry at 760.

Except in rare circumstances, it is the practice of this Court to attempt to obtain counsel in civil rights cases filed by prison inmates, but only after a motion to dismiss or for summary judgment has been denied. Since the defendants have not yet had an opportunity to answer the Amended Complaint, I do not believe it necessary or appropriate

to appoint counsel at this time. Accordingly, Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of Counsel is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

The parties to this action may object to and seek review of this Order but are required to act within ten (10) days of service of a copy hereof as provided for in Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(a) and E.D.Mich.LR 72.1(d)(1). Failure to file specific objections constitutes a waiver of any further right of appeal. Fed.R.Civ.P. 72. Filing of objections that raise some issues but fail to raise others with specificity, will not preserve all the objections a party might have to this Order. Pursuant to E.D. Mich. LR 72.1(d)(1), a copy of any objection is to be served upon this Magistrate Judge.

Within ten (10) days of service of any objecting party's timely filed objections, the opposing party may file a response. The response shall not be more than five (5) pages in length unless by motion and order such page limit is extended by the Court. The response shall address specifically, and in the same order raised, each issue contained within the objections.

SO ORDERED.

s/Donald A. Scheer  
DONALD A. SCHEER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

DATED: July 25, 2007

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify on July 25, 2007 that I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of the Court sending notification of such filing to all counsel registered electronically. I hereby certify that a copy of this paper was mailed to the following non-registered ECF participants on July 25, 2007. **Joseph Copenhaver.**

s/Michael E. Lang  
Deputy Clerk to  
Magistrate Judge Donald A. Scheer  
(313) 234-5217